



**National Park Service**  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Joshua Tree National Park

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## Joshua Tree National Park News Release

### **“America’s Best Idea” Exhibit Opens at Joshua Tree**

A new photography exhibit on America’s national parks opens today at Joshua Tree National Park.

Called *America’s Best Idea*, the exhibit features color panoramic prints of America’s fifty-eight national parks. All images in the exhibit were taken by photographer Stan Jorstad. The exhibit is being hosted by the Joshua Tree National Park Association, the non-profit partner of Joshua Tree National Park, at the Joshua Tree Visitor Center, located at 6554 Park Boulevard in the community of Joshua Tree, California. The exhibit is open to the public free of charge. The Joshua Tree Visitor Center is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"National parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst," wrote Wallace Stegner, a Pulitzer Prize winning author known for his writings on the American West. The *America’s Best Idea* exhibit was created by Yosemite National Park in partnership with the American Park Network, Nature Valley, and the Yosemite Fund. The exhibit opened at Yosemite in October and is now touring the United States at selected national parks.

While the National Park Service currently manages 391 sites scattered across the United States and its territories, only 58 are officially designated as “National Park.” Photographer Stan Jorstad, one of only a handful of professional photographers who have photographed every national park, hopes that all who see his images will come away with a renewed appreciation for our irreplaceable natural and cultural treasures. The *America’s Best Idea* exhibit will be on display through the end of June.


Joshua Tree Superintendent Curt Sauer noted “I think it’s wonderful that, as we get ready to celebrate National Park Week, Joshua Tree National Park is able to offer this outstanding collection of national park photos to our visitors. I hope people will take advantage of this time to come see the exhibit and remind themselves how lucky we are that we live in a country that has set aside so many of its most special places for everyone to enjoy.” National Park Week is set for April 22-29, 2007.

In addition to the exhibit, the Joshua Tree National Park Association will be selling the companion book – *America’s Best Idea: A Photographic Journey Through Our National Parks*. This book contains the same

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beautiful images by photographer Stan Jorstad and also provides the reader a history of names, dates and designations of all of our national parks.

More information about this special exhibit as well as information about Joshua Tree National Park can be found by visiting the park's web site at [www.nps.gov/jotr](http://www.nps.gov/jotr), or by calling the park at 760-367-5500.

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#### SAGUARO

The Saguaro is the most iconic of all desert plants. It is a cactus that grows in the Sonoran Desert of Arizona and New Mexico. It is known for its unique shape, which is often compared to a giant arm reaching for the sky. The Saguaro is a slow-growing plant, and it can live for over 200 years. It is a symbol of the desert and is often found in the same places as the saguaro cactus.

#### BLACK CANYON OF THE GUNNISON

The Black Canyon of the Gunnison is a deep, narrow canyon located in the state of Colorado. It is known for its dramatic, sheer cliffs and the deep, dark water of the Gunnison River. The canyon is a popular destination for hikers and photographers. It is a symbol of the rugged beauty of the American West.

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